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- **Increased Payment to Skilled Nursing Facilities for Residents with AIDS –** The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) increases the per day payment amount for a SNF resident with AIDS by 128 percent. The hike is intended to help nursing homes cover the increased cost of caring for these patients until a new SNF payment rate that includes these costs can be adopted.
 - **SNF Telehealth Evaluation –** The MMA directs the Secretary to evaluate the possibility of allowing SNFs as originating sites for telehealth services.
 - **Exclusions from SNF PPS –** The MMA clarifies that certain professional services provided by individuals affiliated with Rural Health Clinics (RHC) and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) are excluded from the SNF PPS, in the same manner as such services would have been excluded if provided by an individual not affiliated with an RHC or FQHC. Such services include the services of physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and clinical psychologists.
 - **Study on Portable Diagnostic Ultrasound Services for SNF Beneficiaries –** The MMA requires the Comptroller General to study and report to Congress on various aspects of portable diagnostic ultrasound services furnished to Medicare SNF eligible individuals.
 - **Additional Information in Notices to Beneficiaries About SNF Benefits –** The MMA requires the Secretary to provide information concerning the number of remaining covered days in a skilled nursing facility stay on notices to eligible individuals.
 - **Information on Medicare-Certified SNFs in Hospital Discharge Plans –** The MMA requires the Secretary to make available information identifying Medicare-participating SNFs. This information must be provided in hospital discharge plans.